

CPR Assist Device Adapted for Anterior/Posterior Compressions

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application 10/427,645, filed April 30, 2003, ^{now U.S. Patent 6,939,315} which is a continuation of U.S. Application 09/866,377, filed May 25, 2001, now U.S. Patent 5 6,616,620.

Field of the Inventions

This invention relates to emergency medical devices and methods and the resuscitation of cardiac arrest patients.

10 Background of the Inventions

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a well known and valuable method of first aid. CPR is used to resuscitate people who have suffered from cardiac arrest after heart attack, electric shock, chest injury and many other causes. During 15 cardiac arrest, the heart stops pumping blood, and a person suffering cardiac arrest will soon suffer brain damage from lack of blood supply to the brain. Thus, CPR requires repetitive chest compression to squeeze the heart and the thoracic cavity to pump blood through the body. Very often, the patient is not 20 breathing, and mouth to mouth artificial respiration or a bag valve mask is used to supply air to the lungs while the chest compression pumps blood through the body.

It has been widely noted that CPR and chest compression can save cardiac arrest patients, especially when applied 25 immediately after cardiac arrest. Chest compression requires that the person providing chest compression repetitively push down on the sternum of the patient at 80 to 100 compressions per